

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - GOI APPROVES SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS

PASS CAB

REF: (A) ROME 279; (B) ROME 531; (C) STATE 7768

1. AT CONCLUSION TWO ONE-HALF HOUR MEETING HOSTED BY MINISTRY TRANSPORT UNDER SECRETARY DEGAN, WHO MINISTER MARTINELLI HAS DESIGNATED AS SENIOR GOI POLICY OFFICIAL FOR CIVAIR MATTERS, AND ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM CIVILAVIA (DIRECTOR GENERAL MOCI AND OFFICE DIRECTOR LIOI), ALITALIA (DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS SERENA), MINISTRY TOURISM (DIRECTOR GENERAL RICCI), MINISTRY TRANSPORT (CHIEF OF CABINET COLLINI) AND EMBOFF, UNDER SECRETARY DEGAN INSTRUCTED CIVILAVIA TO MODIFY ITS AFFINITY CHARTER REGULATIONS TO PERMIT UP TO THREE (3) GROUPS OF NOT LESS THAN EIGHTY (80) PERSONS EACH ON AFFINITY CHARTERS FOR 1975 ONLY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFFS QUESTION, DEGAN SAID EMBASSY COULD NOTIFY TRAVEL AGENTS OF THIS DECISION. EMBASSY HAS INFORMED LOCAL CARRIER REPS (INCLUDING SUPPLEMENTALS) AND PRESIDENT ITALIAN CHAPTER AMERICAN SOCIETY TRAVEL AGENTS (ASTA).

3. ALITALIA REP SERENA (NO. 3 IN ALITALIA HIERARCHY) ARGUED VEHEMENTLY AGAINST ANY CHANGE IN GOI CHARTER POLICY, ON GROUNDS THAT MODIFICATIONS WOULD ONLY DILUTE ALITALIA'S REVENUES AND

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INCREASE ALREADY HEAVY LOSSES. DEGAN, HOWEVER, DECIDED THAT

LARGER TOURIST AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS INTERESTS WERE MORE IMPORTANT.

4. EMBOFF, DEGAN, MOCI AND SERENA AGREED THAT DISCUSSIONS ON INTRODUCTION OF TRAVEL GROUP CHARTER (TGC) BY GOI SHOULD BEGIN SHORTLY SINCE THERE MIGHT BE NEED, IN VIEW US CAB POSITION FAVORING ELIMINATION AFFINITY CHARTERS AFTER 1975 SEASON, FOR SOMETHING TO REPLACE THEM.

5. DEGAN PROMISED HAVE MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) GIVE FORMAL RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S NOTE VERBALE OF JANUARY 15 REQUESTING GOI TO PERMIT SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS, IN ORDER CONFIRM FOR RECORD DECISION COMMUNICATED ORALLY TO EMBOFF.

6. COMMENT: IT OBVIOUS FROM ATTITUDE OF GOI PARTICIPANTS AT MEETING THAT THERE IS NO RPT NO CHANCE THAT GOI WILL PERMIT TRAVEL GROUP CHARTERS (TGC) DURING 1975. UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, EMBASSY WILL NOT RPT NOT APPROACH GOI FOR INTRODUCTION TGC THIS YEAR, BUT WILL AT APPROPRIATE TIME COMMENCE DISCUSSIONS FOR INTRODUCTION OF TGC FOR 1976 AND SUBSEQUENT SEASONS. VOLPE

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